REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-29 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 9, 16, and 24.

Claim Amendments

The independent claims have been amended to clarify that the relationship between resources determined by comparing the resource names results in one resource being a sub-resource of the other resource. That is, when two resource names are compared, the relationship that is determined between the two resources is that one of the two resources is a sub-resource of the other of the two resources. No new matter is added by way of these amendments. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, on page 19 of the Specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0186238 ("Sylor") in view of European Patent Application EP1009130A1 ("Brun"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention relates to determining whether a particular resource is associated with an access control policy using a hierarchical organization that organizes resources based on the resource names. Specifically, when access to a particular resource is requested, the resource

name is looked up in the hierarchical organization and it is determined whether the resource name is associated with an access control policy. Once the resource name is located, the access control policy associated with the resource can be retrieved and the request can be evaluated against the access control policy to determine whether to grant access to the resource.

The hierarchical organization includes a top-level resource name (*i.e.,* a root resource name) and one or more *sub-resource names* (*i.e.,* children resource names), where each sub-resource name is placed in the hierarchical organization based on common portions of the sub-resource name with the top-level resource name. That is, resource names are compared to determine which resources are sub-resources of a parent resource, where the comparison is based solely on the resource names (*see* Specification, Figure 4 and accompanying text).

Turning to the rejection of the claims, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness "[f]irst, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." (*See* MPEP §2143.03). Further, "all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." (*See* MPEP §2143.03). The Applicant respectfully asserts that the references, when combined, fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of amended independent claim 1.

Specifically, the Examiner admits that Sylor fails to disclose or suggest that the names of two resources are compared to identify a relationship between the two resources, and that the hierarchical organization comprises a top-level resource name and several sub-resource names corresponding to the top-level resource name (*see* Office Action mailed April 11, 2006, page 3).

It also follows that Sylor cannot disclose that the relationship identified between the two resources indicates that one of the two resources is a sub-resource of the other of the two resources. The Examiner relies on Brun to disclose the aforementioned limitations of the claimed invention.

However, Brun fails to disclose or suggest that the comparison between resource prefixes determines that one resource is a sub-resource of the other resource. Brun discloses "comparing the resource identifier prefix with the prefixes stored in an access border node directory database" (*see* Brun, col. 8, ll. 44-48). However, comparing resource identifier prefixes is **not** equivalent to determining a relationship between the resources. In fact, Brun does not disclose that the comparison between resource identifier prefixes results in *any* type of relationship between the resources, where the relationship is subsequently used to organize the resources in a hierarchical structure.

The Examiner asserts that the resource identifier type, which discloses an addressing scheme such as network service access point (NSAP) and E.164, is equivalent to the hierarchical structure recited in the present claims. Even assuming *arguendo* that this is correct, Brun fails to disclose or suggest that the comparison of resource name prefixes results in one resource being a sub-resource of the other, and further that the sub-resource is placed in the NSAP hierarchical structure according to the relationship of the sub-resource and the parent resource (top-level resource). In fact, Brun only discloses that the resource identifier prefix (*i.e.,* the NSAP addressing scheme) is used to *group together* users with the same resource identifier type (see Brun, col. 15, ll. 46-57). Brun fails to disclose or suggest that this grouping based on resource identifier prefixes results in one user being in a sub-group of another resource. In fact, grouping

together users as disclosed in Brun is completely distinct from *identifying a relationship* between two resource names such that one resource is a sub-resource of the other resource.

As further evidence of the Applicant's position, the portion of Brun that discussing comparing resource names is in a completely disjoint area of the Brun specification than the area that discusses the NSAP and similar address schemes. The comparison in Brun has nothing to do with the addressing schemes disclosing in Brun, and therefore, cannot possibly place resources amongst which a resource/sub-resource relationship is identified within the hierarchical structure of the NSAP or similar addressing scheme. One skilled in the art can appreciate that the comparison and the NSAP addressing scheme disclosing in Brun are completely unrelated, and relating them would require the Examiner to read the claim limitations of the present invention overly broadly or mischaracterize the prior art. Furthermore, the Examiner relies on *one line* (*i.e.,* the line that disclosing NSAP and E.164) in Brun that disclosing any type of hierarchical organizational structure. This is hardly enough support for disclosing that the comparison of resource names identifies a relationship of resource and sub-resource and subsequently places the resources within the hierarchical structure based on the identified relationship of resource and sub-resource.

In view of the above, it is clear that independent claim 1 is patentable over Sylor and Brun, whether considered separately or in combination. Further, independent claims 9 and 16 have been amended to include similar allowable subject matter and are patentable over Sylor and Brun for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. Dependent claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 19, and 23 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 10, and 17, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sylor, in view of Brun, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0213258 ("Ramamoorthy"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Sylor and Brun fail to render the amended independent claims 1, 9, and 16 obvious. Independent claim 24 has been amended to recite similar subject matter as independent claims 1, 9, and 16. Therefore, independent claim 24 is patentable over Sylor and Brun for the same reasons described above. Further, Ramamoorthy fails to supply that which Sylor and Brun lack, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on Ramamoorthy solely for the purpose of disclosing that resources are associated with access policies and that requestors are inherently checked for access privileges (*see* Office Action mailed April 11, 2006, page 6).

Thus, it is clear that Sylor, Brun, and Ramamoorthy, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to render independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Dependent claims 2, 10, and 17 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 21, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sylor in view of Brun, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0128615 ("Carmel"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Sylor and Brun fail to render amended independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Further, Carmel fails to supply that which Sylor, Brun, and Loucks lack, as

evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on Carmel solely for the purpose of disclosing indexing and querying documents, where context delimiters are used for both indexing and querying into documents, and for disclosing receiving information for wildcard pattern matching of resource names (*see* Office Action mailed April 11, 2006, page 7). Thus, it is clear that Sylor, Brun, and Carmel, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to render independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Dependent claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 21, 25, and 26 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 14, 22, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sylor, Brun, and U.S. Patent No. 6,026,440 ("Shrader"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Sylor and Brun fail to render amended independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Further, Shrader fails to supply that which Sylor and Brun lack, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on Shrader solely for the purpose of disclosing receiving information indicating whether a resource name is case-sensitive (*see* Office Action mailed April 11, 2006, page 8).

Thus, it is clear that Sylor, Brun, and Shrader, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to render independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24 obvious. Dependent claims 7, 14, 22, and 27 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sylor in view of Brun and further in view of Ramamoorthy and U.S. Patent No. 5,544,322 ("Cheng").

To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Sylor, Brun, and Ramamoorthy fail to render amended independent claim 1 obvious. Further, Cheng fails to supply that which Sylor, Brun, and Ramamoorthy lack, as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner relies on Cheng solely for the purpose of disclosing referring a request for access to a resource to another policy decision point (*see* Office Action mailed April 11, 2006, page 9). Further, Cheng fails to disclose or suggest a policy decision point that is capable of evaluating policy decisions regarding access to the resource. Rather, Cheng discloses that the policy decision is forwarded to a *database* (*i.e.,* which cannot make a determination regarding authentication for web server resources) (*see* Cheng, col. 6, ll. 55-59). The database disclosed in Cheng basically processes an authentication announcement, but does not work for general web server resources that do not perform authentication announcements.

Thus, it is clear that Sylor, Brun, Ramamoorthy, and Cheng, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to render independent claim 1 obvious. Dependent claim 28 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Referring to claim 29, the Examiner takes Official Notice that a cache for subsequent requests/processes is notoriously well know in the art (*see* Office Action mailed April 11, 2006, page 9). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion and requests that the Examiner provide evidence to support this position either in the form of prior art or by providing a declaration of personal knowledge pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.104 (d) (2). Particularly, while caching requests and processes is well known in the art, the present invention relates to caching policy decisions related to access control of resources. By caching policy decisions that are

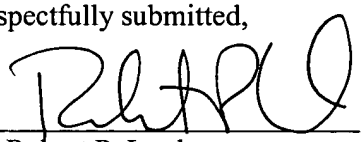
obtained by locating the resource in the hierarchical organization, the need to traverse the hierarchical organization is eliminated, thereby making the process of access control for a particular resource quicker. Applicant respectfully asserts that caching of such policy decisions, made by policy decision points for controlling access to resources is not well known in the art. Accordingly, favorable consideration of dependent claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/497001).

Dated: July 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

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